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Northern Region News



Issue #10

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Clearwater National Forest

Retirees Visit the Clearwater

by Dennis Elliott, Powell Ranger District

Powell Ranger District recently hosted 29 Forest Service retirees for a trip along the historic Lolo Motorway.

They began with a 40-mile drive down the scenic Lochsa River to Lochsa Historical Ranger Station where the group had a chance to renew old acquaintances. This was also an opportunity to introduce current employees, including trip host Margie Ewing, Powell District Ranger. After touring the old ranger station, the group proceeded back east to Squaw Creek and up the winding trail to Indian Post Office on the Lolo Motorway. Archeologists Milo McCleod (Lolo NF supervisor's office) and Doug Carr (Powell District) gave an interpretive talk on the area.

The group then went to the old Horseshoe Lookout site where the "old hands" took over. Several of the retirees who had worked on a fire that burned the lookout and surrounding area in 1961, spoke on some of the events involved. John Milodragovitch gave his own humorous interpretive discussion on lookouts and their demise.

While the day was long, the time together was short. For the retirees it was an opportunity to see an area that was either new to them or long ago visited. For the rest of us, it was an opportunity to make contact with some of those people who are part of the history and tradition of the Forest Service; a chance to "touch home" in our organizational culture.



Retirees stand on the former site of Horseshoe Lookout, burned during Horseshoe Fire in 1961. Jack Puckett, right foreground, former District Ranger on Powell District, gives a recap of the lookout and the fire to the group.

Trail Work by Cooperation

by Kendall Clark, Recreation Forester, Selway Ranger District

"I think it would be great if we could help out people who are handicapped and can't get out to see the forest," exclaimed Judy Merrill, a member of People First, a group of developmentally disabled adults who live in Grangeville, Idaho.

Judy and nine other members of the group, along with counselors John Rainey and Pam Swanstrom were primary partners with Selway Ranger District on the O'Hara Barrier-Free Interpretive Trail challenge cost-share project. The group spent three days last May swinging pulaskis, McLeods, and shovels to widen and level an existing nature trail, turning it into a trail that will be accessible to all people. Evenings were spent around the campfire, enjoying stories and songs.

Fall projects will include benches, placed at pretty overlooks and interpretive signs erected to bring enjoyment to the folks who stroll along the trail. Selway District trail crews will join People First to work on some of the more difficult sections of the trail.

By next spring, all visitors to O'Hara Campground will be able to enjoy the spectacular scenery along the Selway River and experience the deep green cool of a cedar and fern forest...perhaps



Volunteers from People First clear trail. Photo by Penny Keck, trails coordinator.

see an osprey dive or find trilliums along the trail. People First members are a very inspiring group, and we, on the Selway, look forward to working with them again.

Kootenai National Forest

Loon Partnership Meets With Success

by Dellora Gauger, Public Information Technician, Fortine Ranger District



Photo by Tom Puchlerz, district ranger

Murphy Lake is home for a Ranger District office, is a favorite spot for trout, bass and pike fishing, a great place to swim and canoe, and for several years now, it's been the summer nesting site for a pair of common loons.

For the past couple of years though, nesting has been unsuccessful. To study and help alleviate this problem, a partnership was formed last spring between the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Fortine Ranger District, and the Montana Loon Society. As a result, buoys were placed to provide a buffer area around the nest site and a permanent information display was constructed at Murphy Lake Campground. The laser-etched display presents information on loon habitat requirements, their life history, their varied calls, and loon management.

Loon Society volunteer, Christie Ferruzzi, monitored the area daily from early June until late July. She has reported that two chicks have hatched and are successfully maturing. Much of this year's progress and success is attributed to the public's willingness to allow the loons the seclusion they require. With their conscious effort and help, the common loon on Murphy Lake has added two more to its population.

Goat Transplant on Lincoln District

by Doug Grupenhoff, Wildlife Technician

The remnant mountain goat population on Lincoln Ranger District received a major shot in the arm recently. In a cooperative effort between Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MDFWP), Olympic National Park and the Forest Service, thirteen goats from the Park were released in late July near Red Mountain on Lincoln District.

This release, in addition to an earlier release of two goats in 1988, supplemented an existing estimated population of three to five animals. Mountain goats are native to the area and have historically been present, but due in part to hunting, the population was reduced to below sustainable numbers. Hunting was halted in the area six years ago.

While the Helena NF's population of this native species was struggling, the Olympic National Park in Washington was trying to reduce an exotic, population of mountain goats introduced from Alaska and British Columbia by sportsmen in the 1920's. The goat population grew from 11 animals to about 1,200 by 1988. They were causing damage to flora and fauna which required relatively isolated conditions.

An enthusiastic contingent of Lincoln District personnel, FWP biologists and local citizens were on hand when the goats arrived. They had been tranquilized for their trip via truck from Washington to their new home on Red Mountain. With continued attention and a little luck, the District hopes to see a thriving population of goats in five to ten years.



Left to right: Doug Grupenhoff, wildlife technician, Lincoln RD; Larry Davis, game warden, MDFWP; Bob Henderson, wildlife biologist, MDFWP; John Grant, wildlife biologist, MDFWP; Charlie Hester, acting wildlife biologist, Lincoln RD.

Regional News

Flathead NF Hosts Civil Rights Meeting

*by Steve Penner, Pre-Sale Forester, Hungry Horse Ranger District, and
Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Assistant, Supervisor's Office*

A service-wide Civil Rights and concurrent Northern Region Civil Rights Advisory Group (CRAG) meeting was hosted by the Flathead NF July 10-13 in Kalispell.

Civil rights representatives from the Northern Region's 13 national forests met and worked with representatives from throughout the Forest Service. The key issues of discussion were contractor discrimination against government employees, acceptance of minorities in small predominantly white communities, and employment/advancement of persons with disabilities. The first two issues were suggested by Region One to be addressed by the Service-wide committee.

Guest speakers and panel members dealt with the benefits of diversity in our work force and valuing everyone as an individual.

Lance Yokota, equal opportunity specialist for Region Five, likened our work force to "a quilt of many different patches, all tied together with a cord of unity to make the whole. This cord of unity is caring for the land and serving people."

Keynote speaker at the afternoon luncheon was Evelyne Villines, national spokesperson for Persons with Disabilities. Villines is presently associated with the Easter Seal Society of Iowa where she assists people with disabilities as they progress through their rehabilitation program.

Other guest speakers included Janine Pease-Windy Boy, president of Little Big Horn Community College; Dr. Gail Sloan, Haskell Indian Junior College; Orville Daniels, supervisor, Lolo NF; and Jean Meyers, Flathead Industries for the Handicapped.

Forest Hosts Netherlands Volunteer

by Dick Schwecke, Resource Assistant, Judith Ranger District

Judith Ranger district was host to a young woman from the Netherlands this summer. Anjo Wagner is a native of Stad ann het Haringoliet, which is a small community of 1,300 people on the coast of Holland. Anjo volunteered to work for the Forest Service as part of her internship needed to complete a degree in recreation land management at the Agricultural University in Wageningen.

Anjo was the third volunteer from the Netherlands to work on the Judith District. She inventoried trails in the Highwoods, Little Belts, and Big Snowy Mountains, then developed the information into a guide to be included in the Recreation Opportunity Guide. She also worked with two local snowmobile clubs in the development of a warming hut along a groomed trail in the Little Belt Mountains. Anjo said her work



Anjo Wagner

here provided some "real practical experience."

Hosting a volunteer from a foreign country is a great opportunity to strengthen international relations. The whole community got the chance to learn more about another country, and to share some Montana hospitality. Anjo said people were very friendly and helpful, and made her feel welcome.

Anyone interested in a volunteer from the Netherlands can contact Judith Ranger District for the name and address of the contact at the University of Wageningen. The university has students in recreation, range, soil conservation, forestry, wildlife, and landscape architecture. Anjo said it is a requirement for all students to get some practical work experience, and they have students working and volunteering all over the world.

Missoula Aerial Fire Depot

Kim Maynard Receives Award

Missoula smokejumper Kim Maynard was presented a Distinguished Service Award (the highest service award given in the USDA) by Chief Dale Robertson on June 6th in Washington D.C. Kim was one of eight Forest Service employees who received this award for their creative and resourceful cooperative response in providing critical technical assistance to African countries to control the effects of the locust plague on food and crop production. The locust plague was the first since 1958, and for two years had caused extensive damage to North African crops. In an area already ravaged by the drought, food supply was in high demand. Aided by international efforts, the anti-locust campaigns waged by many North African countries eradicated the plague in three years instead of the predicted seven years.

Maynard, a veteran smokejumper of eight years, was in Algeria from mid-November through mid-December as a French-speaking logistics specialist for the 3-member U.S. team. Kim's background and education is in the international field.

When receiving her award, Kim thanked her team members and the Missoula Smokejumper Unit for instilling a work and fitness ethic that enabled her to deal with the harsh working conditions of the desert, work with different cultures, and understand and respond to emergency situations.

Clearwater National Forest

Forest Hosts Successful TPLA Effort

by Tom Geouge, Forester, Pierce Ranger District

Over 120 volunteers turned out July 21, 22, and 23 to participate in Clearwater NF's annual "Take Pride in America" effort. The volunteers cleared five miles of the Nee-Me-Poo National Historic Trail, six scenic vistas and cleaned litter from along 15 miles of the Lolo Motorway.

Local families, as well as people from as far away as Florida teamed up with Forest Service volunteers to enjoy a two-night campout and to contribute their labor to reopen segments of the trail between Beaver Dam Saddle and Green Saddle. Each evening Bob Squires of Kamiah played guitar and led singing around a large campfire.

Nee-Me-Poo Trail was constructed by the U.S. Army in 1866 but has not been used or cleared since about 1933 when the Lolo Motorway was built. The trail cleared will help link segments of the Lewis and Clark Route which lie to the east and west of Weitas Meadows.

Plans are to hold another trail clearing event next year about the third weekend in July. If you missed this year's outing and would like to join in clearing America's historic trails next year, contact Tom Geouge at Pierce Ranger Station, P.O. Box 308, Kamiah, Idaho 83536.

Partnerships Help Fire Recovery

by Bert Kulesza, Fire Recovery Project, Regional Office

Thanks to a cooperative effort between the American Forestry Association, Earth Observation Satellite Company (EOSAT) and the Forest Service a special poster of the 1988 Greater Yellowstone Area fires has been developed. This spectacular full-color, 24"x36" poster is a reproduction of the Greater Yellowstone Area fires as photographed by satellite at the height of the season.

Forest Service employees played a critical role in fighting these fires. The poster was made to commemorate the personal sacrifice and commitment of all who fought the fires. Included with the poster is a number-coded key identifying the major fires and landmarks and an informative fire ecology education guide.

This dramatic poster and guide is available for \$12.95 plus \$2.00 postage and handling. Additional information and order forms are available at any Forest Service office. Profits from sales will be contributed to the Forest Service's Greater Yellowstone Area Recovery Fund and used for fire recovery and rehabilitation.

Another joint effort between Sunshine Mining Company and the Forest Service has resulted in production and marketing of a silver medallion, also to raise funds for the Greater



Chief F. Dale Robertson signs agreement with the American Forestry Association, represented by Gary Moll, Program Director (seated). Regional Foresters (left to right) John Mununa, Region One, Stan Tixier, Region Four, and Gary Cargill, Region Two, look on.

Yellowstone Fire Recovery Program.

The medallion has a beautifully sculptured forest scene and elk on the obverse side with the words "Greater Yellowstone National Forests Fire Recovery 1988-1991." The reverse side features a portrait of Smokey Bear and the message "Only You Can Help." Each medallion is 1 1/2 inches in diameter and contains one troy ounce of silver. They may be ordered by calling toll-free 1-800-2-SILVER. For further information contact Ken Gallick, (406) 587-6704.

Lolo National Forest

Missoula District Plans History Project

by Dan Hall, History Project, Missoula Ranger District

Missoula Ranger District needs your help!!! The District is undertaking an administrative and social history of the District from the time of its formation to the present. A large part of this project will rely on oral history interviews, photographs, and records that relate to the District.

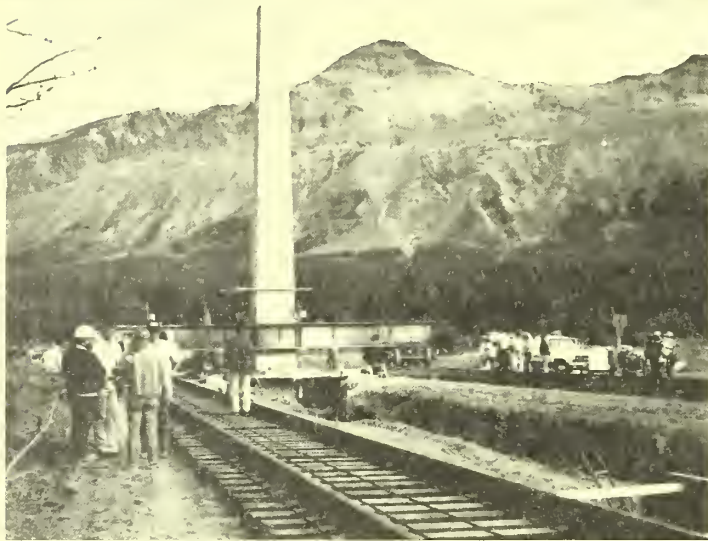
Current and former employees who worked on the District are needed to participate in oral history interviews. The interviews will be a taped collection of your memories and recollections of your experiences on the District. If you would consider participating in an interview, or if you have any historic photographs or records that you would loan or donate to this project, please contact me: Dan

Hall, Missoula History Project, Missoula Ranger District, Building 24-A, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT 59801; phone: 329-3853.

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A Monument is Moved

by Tim Love, Recreation Forester, Rocky Mountain Ranger District



On July 19, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial, a 60-foot, 165-ton obelisk, which resembles a miniature Washington monument, was moved from the center of U.S. Highway 2 to its new location 50 yards away. Nearly 200 spectators looked on as the monument was inched to its new site.

The decision to move the monument was based on a two-year study to determine a way to improve the management of visitor attractions and recreation activities, and alleviate safety concerns associated with Marias Pass. Lewis and Clark NF, Flathead NF,

Glacier National Park, Montana Dept. of Highways, Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Blackfeet Tribe were all involved in the study.

The monument marked completion of the last link of the "Roosevelt International Highway," known better as U.S. Highway 2. The Roosevelt Highway extends 4,060 miles from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon (via Ontario, Canada). The monument and the highway were named for Roosevelt in recognition of his leadership in conservation. While President, Roosevelt added 125 million acres to the National Forest System, including Lewis & Clark and Flathead National Forests, and Glacier National Park.

The cornerstone, located beneath the monument did not contain a time capsule which was thought to have been placed there during dedication ceremonies. If recovered, the time capsule will be returned to the monument's base along with a videotape of the move and other items from the present, during dedication ceremonies scheduled for next year.

During the move the monument was elevated slightly (4 inches) and positioned over a temporary track where it was rolled to its new location on the Continental Divide.

Interpretive panels will be included at the site to discuss the Blackfeet and Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes' historic use of the area. The overall site, which will be managed by Lewis-Clark NF, will be designated as a Site of Historic Interest and will be interpreted for the public. Forest Supervisor Dale Gorman said he was pleased with the cooperation the agencies and tribal representatives showed in reaching a mutual understanding and solution for the safety and interpretation challenges at Marias Pass.

Helena National Forest

Region's Mule String Greets Legislative Aids

by Lorraine Parrish, Public Affairs Specialist

The Northern Region's 9-Mile Mule String appeared at the Last Chance Stampede in Helena, July 28-30th. Not only did they greet all the fairgoers at the Lewis & Clark County Fair, but they also had a chance to give a command performance for the legislative aids for our Montana Congressmen.

Addie Shields (Aid for Senator Max Baucus), Betty Hill (Aid for Senator Conrad Burns), and Sheena Wilson (Aid for Representative Pat Williams), accompanied by Forest Supervisor Ernie Nunn, were given a complete presentation by Bob Hoverson, pack string manager, with assistance from packer Cal Samsel and volunteers John and Vivian Christensen. They were informed of the history of the Remount Station, how the ambassador pack string came into being, and their work in packing materials and supplies into wilderness areas and fire camps.



From left, Ernie Nunn, Addie Shields, Betty Hill, Sheena Wilson, and Bob Hoverson.

Hyalite Challenge Project Dedicated

by John Dolan, Recreation Strategist

More than 200 people packed the north portion of the Langhor Campground on Hyalite Creek, Saturday, July 29, for the formal dedication of the Hyalite Challenge.

Two large tents allowed people to visit in the shade near a 55 foot steel girder bridge built by employees of Montana Power Company. Across Hyalite Creek an accessible nature trail with accessible fishing points and interpretive signs, in English and in braille, awaited both the curious and those who helped build it. A "dedication park" stood along the road with a rock wall containing bronze plaques from the Lions Foundation and Gallatin NF. There was a large map showing the location of accessible features developed in Hyalite Challenge, and a massive steel sculpture by



Jim Dolan, depicting some of the natural splendors of the area.

A number of Lions Club officials spoke at the ceremony, including Judge Brian Stevenson, president of Lions International at the time the Hyalite Challenge received \$50,000 from the Lions Foundation. Deputy Regional Forester Chris Risbrudt, Director of Recreation John Drake, Gallatin NF Supervisor Bob Gibson, and project coordinators Nan Christianson and Bill Walton also spoke.

Prior to the dedication ceremonies, Bozeman Ranger District and the Gallatin Empire Lions Club hosted a barbecue as a thank you to the community for untold hours of labor that made the effort a resounding success.

This formal dedication served to recognize the many people who contributed to the success of the Hyalite Challenge, but it does not bring to an end this very successful partnership between the Forest Service and more than seventy individuals and organizations. We anticipate that more will be done to make the beautiful Hyalite drainage even more accessible. Perhaps more importantly, the Gallatin NF is using the Hyalite Challenge as a model to make all recreation facilities on the Forest more accessible.



Enjoying the dedication are left to right, Nancy Halstrom, Bozeman District; Deputy Regional Forester Chris Risbrudt; Reggie Clark, Bozeman District; Bozeman District Ranger Bob Dennee; Nan Christianson, formerly Bozeman District, now Bitterroot NF; Jeff Sirmon, Washington Office; and Bob Gibson, Gallatin NF supervisor.

A TPIA Winner

The Hyalite Challenge project was a Take Pride in America (TPIA) national award winner for 1988. TPIA is a national public awareness campaign created three years ago to encourage Americans to take pride in America and be responsible for its resources. Bozeman District received one of 103 national awards for 1988.

Jeff Sirmon, Deputy Chief, presented Bob Dennee, Bozeman District Ranger, with the national award. Sirmon also awarded Bill Walton, project coordinator for the Gallatin Empire Lions Club, a TPIA award. Bill was the person who "made things happen." He devoted many hours of his own time to the project, and also, by example, helped others make the Hyalite Challenge work.



Above: Jeff Sirmon, Deputy Chief, presents Bob Dennee, Bozeman District Ranger, with the National Take Pride in America award. Left: Bill Walton and Nan Christianson, project coordinators, with Bill's Take Pride in America award.

Wolf Visits the Regional Office

by Deanna Riebe, Editor

A wolf by the name of Little John visited the University of Montana and the Regional Office in early August. Little John was a charmer. He licked faces, pawed observers, rolled on his back to enjoy a tummy scratch, and snuggled up to his handler, not unlike any household dog. But his lightning quick reactions to any noise and his intense alertness definitely set him apart.

Little John was in Missoula to give a group of biologists practice in identification. He was scheduled to make tracks in the dust and trip some sophisticated automatic cameras that will be used to confirm the presence of wolves in a given area.

With wolves beginning to filter down the ridges of the Northern Rockies to reclaim their lost range, biologists are preparing for the controversy and confusion that is expected to develop. Bill Ruediger, threatened and endangered species manager at the Regional Office, organized the two-day session at the university, and



Little John enjoys a tummy scratch from his handler, Randy Hinson, of Wolf Haven in Tenino, Washington. Photos by Deanna Riebe.



Little John's visit.

Little John is not a "wild" wolf, but has lived his entire life in captivity at Wolf Haven in Tenino, Washington. Wolf Haven is an organization that cares for wolves that wind up in captivity.

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